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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Data Issued Today on Race, Ethnicity, And Gender of California Judges**

San Francisco—The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) today released demographic data on the race, ethnicity, and gender of California state judges and justices. The information is available on the California Courts Web site at [http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/4\\_38sb56.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/4_38sb56.htm).

The information is provided in compliance with Government Code section 12011.5(n), which requires the AOC to collect and release aggregate demographic data relative to the ethnicity, race, and gender of California state judges and justices, by specific jurisdiction, on or before March 1 of each year. This is the third year that the council has released this information.

The data are displayed in charts that show:

- (1) the overall gender, race, and ethnicity of justices and judges in the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, and trial courts;
- (2) the gender of justices and judges by jurisdiction—for the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal by district, and trial courts by county;
- (3) the race and ethnicity of justices and judges by jurisdiction;
- (4) the race and ethnicity of justices and judges by gender and by jurisdiction;
- (5) the specific race and ethnicity reported by those justices and judges who indicated that they considered themselves to be of more than one race or ethnicity; and
- (6) a comparison of the current overall data with the data from the 2008 and 2007 reports.

The demographic data show an increase in the number of women trial court judges in 2008; women now represent 28.7 percent of the judiciary

(more)

in the trial courts. In both the trial and appellate courts, women now represent 28.8 percent compared to 27.1 percent two years ago.

The data also show increases in the number of trial court judges in the following race and ethnicity categories: American Indian or Alaska Native (0.3 percent in 2008 compared to 0.1 percent two years ago); Asian (4.7 percent in 2008 compared to 4.4 percent two years ago); Black or African American (5.1 percent in 2008 compared to 4.6 percent two years ago); Hispanic or Latino (7.3 percent in 2008 compared to 6.5 percent two years ago); Pacific Islander (0.2 percent in 2008 compared to 0.1 percent two years ago); White (72.1 percent in 2008 compared to 69.3 percent two years ago); and Some Other Race (0.7 percent in 2008 compared to 0.2 percent two years ago).

These changes reflect judicial retirements and other departures from the bench, new judicial appointments, and an increase in the number of trial court judges who have provided race/ethnicity information.

Increasing the diversity of California's judicial officers to reflect the rich diversity of California's populace continues to be a key goal of the Judicial Council of California.

*The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.*

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